

Dear Caroline,

16 June 2020

I have sent you a link (below, from the June 2020 issue of the London Review of Books) that clearly explains why you must publicly demand UK authorities immediately release Julian Assange from prison and drop the US extradition request led by corrupt psychopath Donald Trump.

But you have failed in this simple task, despite it being your JOB, the one you asked me to support you in, by voting for you in all the MP and MEP elections you have stood in.

Is it the "radical shift" you would be supporting in "the balance of power between government and society" that you are afraid of if you were to speak out publicly in support of press freedoms, using Julian Assange as your example?

Or are you just protecting your own reputation and personal safety in fear the US authorities would react by targeting you as well?

Do the right thing. You have the power. I do not. Speak out NOW. Your continued silence is appalling.

Regards,

Natasha

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v42/n12/patrick-cockburn/julian-assange-in-limbo>

"The WikiLeaks documents exposed the way the US, as the world's sole superpower, really conducted its wars – something that the military and political establishments saw as a blow to their credibility and legitimacy. There were some devastating revelations, the helicopter video among them, but many of the secrets uncovered weren't particularly significant or indeed very secret. In themselves they don't explain the degree of rage WikiLeaks provoked in the US government and its allies.

This was a response to Assange's assault on their monopoly control of sensitive state information, which they saw as an essential prop to their authority. Making such information public, as Assange and WikiLeaks had done, weaponised freedom of expression: if disclosures of this kind went unpunished and became the norm, it would radically shift the balance of power between government and society – and especially the media – in favour of the latter. It is the US government's determination to defend its ongoing monopoly, rather than the supposed damage done by the release of the secrets themselves, that has motivated it to pursue Assange and to seek to discredit both him and WikiLeaks."